



## AFT Washington 2022 Candidate Questionnaire

### About AFT Washington

AFT Washington represents approximately 6,500 education professionals working in community and technical colleges, regional universities, early learning, and K-12. Our members work with all ages of students, from young children in pre-K education settings to adults in higher education, as well as all facets of education. Our members are bus drivers, maintenance workers, faculty, paraeducators, food service workers, custodians, success coaches, grounds crew members, and more.

Together, with our members and national organization, we advocate and fight for:

- Safe, welcoming, and thriving neighborhood schools for every student, and high-quality, affordable post-high school opportunities to fulfill our paramount duty to help *all* students succeed, at every level;
- Economic and advancement opportunities for everyone;
- Affordable, high-quality healthcare for everyone;
- Democracy, pluralism, and voting rights by involving the voices of students, parents, and the community, side-by-side with educational employees and elected officials;
- Racial, social, financial, and civic equity, and fighting back against discrimination, hatred, and bigotry.

We hope you will take this opportunity to complete the questionnaire below and allow us to better understand your candidacy. Completing the questionnaire is required for consideration of endorsement or possible campaign contributions. If our Committee on Political Education (COPE) decides they would like further information, we may ask you to participate in an interview.

To be considered, return your completed questionnaire via email, by close of business, on March 25<sup>th</sup> to [aftwashington@aftwa.org](mailto:aftwashington@aftwa.org). If you have questions, please leave a message at 206-242-4777.

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### Candidate Biographical Information

**Name:** Julianne Gale

**Candidate for which office:** WA State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> LD

**Party affiliation:** Democrat

**Political background** (*offices held or currently hold, offices ran for, party positions, etc.*): I have served on the statewide Steering Committee for the Office of Recovery Partnerships, been a monitoring team member for the WA Climate Assembly, and currently serve on the Policy Committee for Front & Centered.

**Community or organizational memberships (past and present):**

Mason County Climate Justice

Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance

League of Women Voters, Mason County – Climate Change Committee

Elevate Mason County

Temple Beth Hatfiloh

The Orchard Alliance at the Shelton United Methodist Church

Sustainability in Prisons Project

**Current occupation:** Youth Program Manager

**Current employer:** Skokomish Indian Tribe

**Are you currently a member of a labor organization?** no

**If yes, which labor organization, and how long have you been a member?**

n/a

**If not currently a member of a labor organization, have you ever been?** yes

**If yes, which labor organization, when, and for how long?**

SMART Local 105 (2016-2017, 1 year)

Las Virgenes Educators Association CTA-NEA (2012, 1 year)

*General*

**1. Why are you running for this elective office?**

The economic, social, and political system my generation has inherited has pushed our ecosystems to the point of collapse. We have a very short window in which to transition our society from exploitative/extractive to regenerative, local, and sustainable. I have tried many different avenues to effect change: education, direct action, public comment, voting, living off-grid, art, theatre, non-profit work, and more. I have started to believe that a key way to make the necessary changes as rapidly as possible is through governmental policy-making. My current legislators have a history of prioritizing short-term profit at the expense of current and future generations. Rather than just complain about it, I am deciding to be part of the solution by running for office. I believe that I could have the best impact on my local community in the role of state senator, because I will be able to collaborate with others across the state while prioritizing the needs of my own community.

**2. What qualities distinguish you from other candidates for this office?**

I have experience working in public education and as a union member. I have been a public school teacher, an afterschool teaching artist, a tribal youth program manager who partners with local public schools, and a youth peer counselor who collaborated with public schools to provide community-based mental health services. I am someone who listens to everyone, learns quickly, and knows how to get things done. I have a history of community organizing and working in coalition across lines of race, class, age, gender, orientation, immigration status, ideology, and more. I am also the only woman, the only person of color, and the only openly queer person running for this office. Finally, unlike my opponent who has already accepted money from fossil fuels, big tobacco, and other big corporations, I am not accepting any money from corporate PACs, because I am running to represent the people and my local community, not multi-national corporations.

*Revenue and Education*

1. For decades Washington State has had the most regressive tax system in the country, contributing to underfunding of public education and many other investments in the public good. **The pandemic has highlighted the numerous gaps in education funding that persist, for example in the form of the digital divide, the need for wrap-around services, stagnant wages, etc. When new funding is allocated, it is often for specific populations of students or specific programs and in relatively small sums. How will you approach finding new sources of revenue to both invest in Washingtonians and create a more progressive revenue system?**

I would like to talk with school boards, teacher/classified worker unions, and other advocates to hear what those with more experience in WA public schools recommend. And then I will work with everyone to get buy-in for the ideas that will best support fully funding our schools in a reliable and fair way.

**Do you support...**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Capital Gains Tax?</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Wealth Tax?</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Estate Tax?</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Elimination of cap on Workforce Education Investment Account tax?</b>		

I do not have enough info to answer the last question yet. I definitely support the Workforce Education Investment Account tax, but I am not knowledgeable about the cap. I would like to get more info from you about it so I can determine whether I support it or not. Please email me at [votejulianne@ gmail.com](mailto:votejulianne@ gmail.com) or call me 360-545-3671 if you'd like to educate me.

2. During the pandemic, many Washingtonians have lost their jobs and been evicted from their homes. The poverty rate has increased during the pandemic, particularly for BIPOC Americans. In the 2022 legislative session, a bill was introduced that would have given cash assistance to those below the poverty line with a stipend, also known as Universal Basic Income or Guaranteed Basic Income. **What is your position on this policy? Do you believe it can help address the racial wealth gap?**

I believe that every human being has the right to have their basic needs met: food, shelter, clean water, clean air, and so on. Thus, I support the idea of a Universal or Guaranteed Basic Income. Given that BIPOC are disproportionately in poverty, such a policy would help address the racial wealth gap, but it is likely that additional policies will need to put in place to fully eliminate the racial wealth gap.

3. Public education, from K-12 through Post-High School has seen state disinvestment for several decades. **What will you do to increase the funding of community and technical colleges in order to invest in the workforce? Do you support pay equity for part-time faculty?**

I will talk to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, AFT WA, and others already working on this issue to hear their recommendations for increasing funding and

workforce investment and be a champion for their ideas. As a former adjunct faculty member myself, I absolutely support pay equity for part-time faculty.

4. Pre-K 12 employees work with students dealing with a wide range of issues outside of school, e.g. trauma, behavioral challenges, developmental disabilities, health issues and more. This can pose safety issues, for example for paraeducators who are often hit, bitten, shoved or in other ways harmed because of student behavior. Many factors contribute to this phenomenon, which translates to a range of potential solutions. **How would you approach problem solving if a group of workers sought your support in addressing this issue?**

I come from a trauma-informed perspective that acknowledges challenges that students, workers, families, and communities are facing together. I believe all stakeholders need to be involved in finding solutions. Sometimes those solutions are individual to a child or a school. Sometimes there are statewide policies supporting or inhibiting that problem-solving, such as making sure teachers have adequate planning time for inclusion or that paraprofessionals have the support needed to stay safe in their work (e.g. sufficient staff, training, etc.). I would start with listening and fully understanding the group of workers and their concerns and proposed solutions. Then I would reach out to other affected stakeholders to get a fuller perspective. Then I would bring everyone together to move forward on a solution that will benefit everyone.

5. In recent years public officials have attempted to solve budget problems through privatization of public services. This diversion of public funds has led to a poor quality of services, reduced accountability, and a loss of good jobs, while failing to realize the promise of saving money. **What is your position on privatization in the education arena? Please explain.**

I am strongly opposed to privatization of education. There is more opportunity for accountability for workers and students in public education. Furthermore, public education is a right of all children, and is specifically a treaty right for Tribes. Privatization pulls funding away from public education. While I respect every family's choice in how to educate their child, I do not support public funding for private schools.

**Do you support...**

	Yes	No
<b>Public tax dollars funding private charter schools?</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Privatization of school and college resources (i.e. counseling, childcare, student services)?</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Public Capitol Funds for projects at private colleges and universities?</b>		<b>x</b>

*Collective Bargaining*

1. Many Washingtonians recognize the value of union representation and are organizing at their workplace, such as legislative aides in Olympia, workers at Starbucks, etc. **Do you support every worker's right to collectively bargain for better working conditions, and their right to join a union? Please explain.**

Yes. My family and I have personally benefited from union working conditions and benefits. When I was a sheet metal apprentice, I was one of the only first year apprentices to attend every single union meeting. I support collective bargaining rights and the right to join a union 100%.

2. We see ongoing attempts to weaken unions and diminish working conditions here in Washington State and at the federal level. **What policies can support unions and workers' rights and how will you work to enact such policies?**

I would like to see more bills that provide paid training for workers, especially in meaningful work. (For example, I love the construction trade's apprenticeship model, and I would love to see all essential work have paid pathways to family wage jobs.) I would like to see more support for co-ops and project labor agreements. I would also like to learn more about what policies the Labor Council, AFT WA and other unions support so that I can support them, too. I will vote against bills that would weaken unions or diminish working conditions. I will vote for bills that will strengthen unions and create healthier working conditions and higher wages for workers. I intend to work in partnership with unions and workers to enact policies that will benefit both.

### *Social Justice*

1. What do you see as **your role** as a state official in addressing racial, social, and economic inequities in our educational system? **Please specifically address each issue.**

I see my role as listening and learning from each group on the frontlines of racial, social, and economic inequities. I plan to meet with tribes, grassroots organizations, unions, and community leaders working to protect equity to hear which laws are failing them and which laws are needed for the future. I believe those most affected by the issue should be leaders in designing the solutions and that the role of a senator is to work to pass bills that enact those solutions. Personally, I intend to consider the impact of each bill on different BIPOC communities, low-income people, people with disabilities, elders, youth, tribes, immigrants, people who speak languages other than English, and so on. When I am not familiar with a community, I will do the outreach to find out more about the impacts. My experience as a citizen advocating on issues is that sometimes bill summaries do not adequately reflect the actual language in a bill that may harm a community already facing inequity, so I will be reading bills carefully to make sure that I am clear on the actual content.

2. We are faced with numerous threats to social justice, including ongoing threats to our immigrant communities, the housing affordability and student debt crises, police accountability, and more. **Where have you shown leadership and acted on issues of social justice in the past? What will your social justice priorities be if you win your election?**

I have been a community organizer (unpaid) prioritizing social justice issues since I was co-head of my high school LGBTQ+ club. Some of my social justice leadership has included: leading diversity, equity, inclusion trainings; direct action; community organizing; supporting BIPOC/working class/disabled/LBTQIA2S+/ immigrant/Tribal/youth/elder leaders; being thoughtful about curricula I wrote and taught; helping build bridges between communities; speaking up respectfully but directly when I see instances of interpersonal or systemic racism at play (ask me for some success stories!); building real relationships with people from many different socioeconomic backgrounds; supporting interpretation and translation at events and in

writing; fundraising for grassroots groups; respecting and defending the policy platforms written by those most impacted; peer counseling; successfully advocating for policy change in my organizations/places of work/places of worship, and more.

As a queer Chinese Jewish woman married to a mixed Native two-spirit with multiple chronic health conditions, I know first-hand that social justice issues are intersectional. No one issue is more important than another.

3. Several bills were passed in the 2021 legislative session designed to reduce police violence and hold police accountable; in the 2022 session attempts were made to dilute the definition of excessive force and minimizing the role of de-escalation. **What is your position on these issues?**

I support the reduction of police violence and holding police accountable. I believe there needs to be a simultaneous increase in investment in other types of community safety—more school counselors, more funding for social services, more opportunities for addiction recovery, more affordable housing and affordable healthcare, better worker protections, more crisis responders, etc.

4. Hate crimes have risen 25 percent nationally since 2015. But the number of hate crimes in Washington state increased by 97 percent. There were 542 hate-crime incidents reported statewide. **How do you plan on addressing the increase in hate crimes in Washington state?**

I'd like to increase funding and support for people already working on the ground for community education and cultural change in order to address the root causes before hate crimes arise. There especially needs to be more resources for rural and small town areas to increase cultural groups and educational opportunities. I also support curricula in schools, such as the Time Immemorial Curriculum or others that teach a holistic history with diverse perspectives and world views. Finally, when it comes to hate crimes that we have not been able to prevent, I support transformative and restorative justice options.

## Campaign Information

**Are there any additional comments you would like to provide that you believe are necessary in understanding your candidacy?**

This election is a pivotal moment. With WA's longest-serving state senator retiring in the 35<sup>th</sup> LD, we have our best chance in decades to put a rural, progressive woman of color in the senate to represent this district. This campaign is a multiracial, mixed-class, multigenerational people-powered campaign that brings people together across the political spectrum.

**What is your overall campaign budget?** \$100,000

**How many volunteers are currently working on your campaign? What is your goal for volunteers working on your campaign?**

I currently have approximately 40 volunteers working on my campaign. I hope to have at least 200 by the election.

**To date, how much money have you raised and obtained pledges for? \$27,807.35**

**Please provide any endorsements you have received:**

North Mason School Board Director John Campbell  
Olympia School Board Director Darcy Huffman  
Shelton City Councilmember Miguel Gutierrez  
Mason County PUD3 Commissioner Tom Farmer  
Port of Grapeview Commissioner Jean Farmer  
Skokomish Tribal Member Kimberly Miller  
WA Democratic Latino Caucus Chair Vanessa Malapote  
Representative Jamila Taylor  
Mason County Women Democrats

**Campaign address:** PO Box 1203

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**Email address:** [votejuliannegale@gmail.com](mailto:votejuliannegale@gmail.com)

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